

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
12 September 2003 (12.09.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/075209 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G06K 9/00**

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB03/00891

(22) International Filing Date: 4 March 2003 (04.03.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
0205000.3 4 March 2002 (04.03.2002) GB

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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

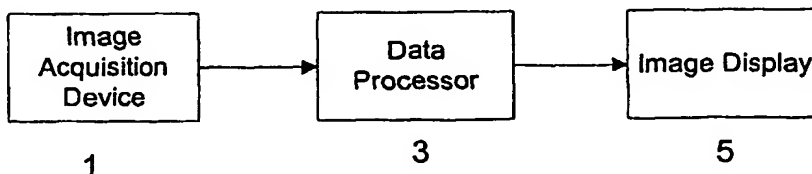
(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: UNSUPERVISED DATA SEGMENTATION



(57) Abstract: An unsupervised method of segmenting data sets using a region growing technique in which data points are initially assigned to a single class, new classes are seeded and points in the data set tested by calculating the probability that they belong to the new class. The probability distributions used in the calculation are adapted as points are reassigned. Classes which fail to grow are discarded. The technique may be applied to the segmentation of data sets in which the data points are taken from medical images. The method may be applied to the demarcation of different parts of structures, e.g. in the medical field demarcating an aneurysm from the surrounding blood vessels in an image or 3-D model of a patient's vasculature. The method may involve using a shape descriptor which is representative of the shape of the structure at each point under consideration. Thus the different parts are distinguished on the basis of their shape.